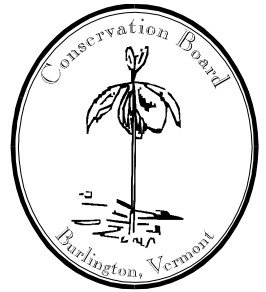


Burlington Conservation Board

149 Church Street
Burlington, VT 05401
<http://www.ci.burlington.vt.us/planning/>
Telephone: (802) 865-7191
(802) 865-7195 (FAX)

*Matt Moore, Chair
Will Flender, Vice Chair
Don Meals
Scott Mapes
Jeff Severson
Miles Waite
Damon Lane
Warren Cornwall
David Scherr*



Annual Report of the Burlington Conservation Board

Fiscal Year 2012: June 30, 2011 – July 1, 2012

The Burlington Conservation Board (BCB) acts as the primary entity within the City for comprehensive environmental planning and review. Conservation Board members provide volunteer services in their areas of environmental expertise, which include wetland biology, engineering, water quality, stormwater management, land conservation and management, and the law. The Board provides thoughtful comment and guidance on all major impact development projects and conducts field observations when appropriate. We strive to develop and sustain effective communication with the Planning Commission, Development Review Board, and other City departments. The BCB has partnered with the Department of Parks and Recreation on open space management through the Conservation Legacy Program. The BCB has also worked with personnel from the Department of Public Works on stormwater management matters in the city. The work of the Conservation Board relies upon the support of the Department of Planning and Zoning, which provides staffing, development review coordination, and planning expertise crucial to Board function.

In the past year, the Board has focused on three primary areas: (1) development review, (2) implementation of Chapter 26: Stormwater, Wastewater, & Pollution Control, and (3) comprehensive planning. Some of our achievements during the last year are described below.

FOCUS AREAS:

1) DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

The BCB reviewed 18 projects this year as opposed to just 11 last year. In FY 2012, the BCB evaluated the following development proposals and gave public testimony, advice, and specific recommendations to the Development Review Board, Department of Planning and Zoning, and the Department of Public Works:

- **451 Ethan Allen Pkwy** Review of proposed 9-unit planned residential development
- **371 Maple St** Review of addition to Champlain College's Hauke Center
- **175 Appletree Point Rd** Review of proposed seawall
- **259 Appletree Point Rd** Review of proposed seawall
- **5 Driftwood Ln** Review of proposed seawall
- **7 Driftwood Ln** Review of proposed seawall
- **57 North Cove Rd** Review of replacement single family home
- **9 Central Ave** Review of proposed seawall
- **97 Elbow St** Review of proposed seawall
- **247-249 Pearl St** Review of proposed site redevelopment of medical offices
- **101 Elbow St** Review of proposed seawall
- **151 Saint Paul St** Review of proposed hotel and parking garage
- **8 College St** Review of bike path slope stabilization and repair

The programs and services of the Dept. of Planning and Zoning are accessible to people with disabilities.
For accessibility information call 865-7188 (865-7142 TTY).

- **71 Crescent Beach Dr** Review of proposed seawall
- **49 Simms St** Review of residential addition
- **70 Appletree Point Rd** Final plat review of 32-unit planned unit development
- **475 Lake St** Review of Individual Wetlands Permit for Moran redevelopment project
- **Shelburne Street** Review of rotary reconstruction project

In review of these projects, the BCB made specific recommendations pertaining to stormwater management and maintenance and to the minimization of wetland impacts.

2) IMPLEMENTATION OF CHAPTER 26

Chapter 26: Wastewater, Stormwater, & Pollution Control was substantially revised and updated in April 2009.

Since the adoption of the revised Chapter 26, the BCB has worked with project applicants and the Stormwater Administrator in implementing the stormwater management provisions of this ordinance. The BCB has played an active role in developing performance standards for new and redevelopment projects to achieve insofar as stormwater management is concerned. Particular attention has been paid to unique site sensitivities, receiving waters and city systems, and feasibility within the context of particular development proposals. There has been a consistent push to manage stormwater to the maximum extent practicable in each case. Doing so decentralizes impacts to city infrastructure and, ultimately, to receiving waters such as the Winooski River, Englesby Brook, and Lake Champlain.

3) COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Over the course of the year, the BCB has reviewed and commented on the city's Climate Action Plan and on the continuing Plan BTV effort to update the city's downtown and waterfront plan. The Board has also initiated the effort to update the city's 1999 Open Space Protection Plan to bring that plan up to date. The update of this plan will reflect changes in land use, land development, conservation, regulations, and planning policies that have occurred since 1999. It will also set forth new goals and objectives in pursuit of future open space protection in the city.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

CONNECTIONS

In the course of these activities, the BCB has maintained and developed important connections with other city departments and organizations during the past year, including:

- Development Review Board (review of individual development proposals)
- Parks & Recreation Department (Conservation Legacy Program & Fund)
- Planning Commission (comprehensive planning)
- Long Range Planning Committee (Downtown & Waterfront Plan)
- Department of Public Works (stormwater management)
- University of Vermont Rubenstein School of Natural Resources (senior capstone project)
- Burlington College (North Avenue / Bike Path link)

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Burlington Conservation Board will continue to provide the City and developers with timely review of proposals that have potentially significant environmental impacts. We will continue to work with the DRB on development review issues. Stormwater management will continue to be

a high priority, and the BCB will work for the successful implementation of the stormwater program. The BCB will continue to push for the incorporation of progressive environmental standards into the Comprehensive Development Ordinance and will work to update the city's 1999 Open Space Protection Plan. Work on the Conservation Legacy Program remains a priority, focusing on conservation planning, education, and targeting parcels of importance to the City.